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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF CHESHAM

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**REPORT**  
of the  
**MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**  
and the  
**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR**  
for the year 1958

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

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R E P O R T  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
and  
THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
for the  
YEAR 1958

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

Chairman of the Council: Councillor F.E. Pearce, J.P.

HEALTH AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chairman  
Councillor F.O. Bell

Councillor A.H.J. Baines  
Councillor Mrs. F.K. Brandon, C.G.  
Councillor H.T. Clarke

Councillor A.P. Bennett  
Councillor Mrs. A. Clarke  
Councillor W.T. Moulder

Councillor Mrs. L. Teeman, J.P.

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S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

T.P. Evans, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Retired 31.12.58)  
F. Seymour, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Appointed 1.1.59)

Other Appointments: The Medical Officer of Health is  
also Medical Officer of Health for Amersham Rural  
District Council and Beaconsfield Urban District  
Council.

Deputy Divisional School Medical Officer,  
and Assistant County Medical Officer.

Chief Public Health Inspector

L.D. Saturley, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., A.I.Hsg.

Other Appointment: Housing Manager to  
Chesham Urban District Council.

Additional Public Health Inspector

A.P. Wells, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant Rodent Officer

A. Palmer

Clerk


J.C. How

Shorthand Typist

Mrs. V. Humphrey

Junior Clerk

P. Bailey.



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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

Tel: Chesham 8622.

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
CHESHAM,  
Bucks.

22nd June, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Chesham Urban District Council.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the environmental health and sanitary circumstances of the Council's district for the year 1958.

Dr. T.P. Evans retired on the 31st December, 1958. I would like to thank him for his great kindness in introducing me to the district.

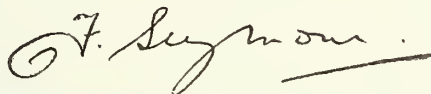
In preparing this Report the Chief Public Health Inspector has been of very great assistance.

I would like to place on record my appreciation of his help and also that of the additional Public Health Inspector and clerical staff of the Public Health Department.

Comments are given in each section to highlight those matters considered to be of importance.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

1920

To the Chairman  
of the Board

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have the  
pleasure and honor  
to acknowledge  
the receipt of your  
letter of the 10th  
inst.

and in reply  
to inform you that  
the same has been  
forwarded to the  
proper authorities  
for their consideration.

I am, Sir,  
very respectfully,  
Yours,  
Sincerely,  
J. H. [Name]

I would be  
glad to hear from  
you again at any  
time.

Respectfully,  
J. H. [Name]

I have the  
pleasure to



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SECTION IGENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS(1) GENERAL STATISTICS

Population, Census 1951	11,433
Population (estimated mid-year 1958)	13,060
Area (acres of District)	3,489
Number of inhabited dwellings (per Valuation List 31.12.58)	4,563
Rateable Value of Area (31.12.58)	£184,964
Product of Penny Rate, 1958/59 (probable)	£726

Comparative Statistics - 1934 to 1958

	YEAR		
	1934	1957	1958
Population	10,240	12,600	13,060
Rateable Value	£56,463	£173,823	184,964
Product of Penny Rate	£212	£700	£726
Number of inhabited dwellings	3,084	4,483	4,563

(2) VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	104	133	237
Illegitimate	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>
All	<u>108</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>244</u>

Chesham

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	18.7
+ Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability Factor 0.98)	18.3

Still Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
All	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

Chesham

Stillbirth rate per 1,000  
live and still-births.

4.1

Total Live and Still-Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live and still-births	109	136	245

Infant Deaths

Death of infants under 1 year of age

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
All	1	2	3

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
All	1	1	2

Chesham

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births - total	12.3
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate	12.7
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate	0.0

Neo-natal Mortality rate  
per 1,000 live births (first four weeks) 8.2

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births 2.9

Maternal Deaths

No maternal deaths were recorded.

Maternal Mortality Rate (including abortion) per  
1,000 live and still births 0.0

Deaths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes	76	80	156

Chesham

Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.9
+ Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability Factor 1.0)	11.9

+ NOTE:

The corrected birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. The corrected rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rates for any other area.



Causes of Death

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Malignant neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	5	2	7
2. Other Malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	8	15	23
3. Leukaemia, alukaemia	4	-	4
4. Diabetes	-	1	1
5. Vascular lesions of nervous systems	11	16	27
6. Coronary disease, angina	16	13	29
7. Hypertension with heart disease	1	3	4
8. Other heart disease	6	3	9
9. Other circulatory disease	3	2	5
10. Influenza	1	-	1
11. Pneumonia	5	10	15
12. Bronchitis	4	2	6
13. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
14. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
15. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
16. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
17. Congenital malformations	-	1	1
18. Other defined and ill defined diseases	7	6	13
19. Motor Vehicle accidents	1	-	1
20. All other accidents	1	2	3
21. Suicide	-	-	-
	<u>76</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>156</u>

CANCER OF THE LUNG

Seven persons died from this disease during the year. In his report for 1957 the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health reported that in England and Wales there were 815 more deaths from this disease than in 1956, a rise of 5.2%. All the evidence points to the fact that cigarette smoking is one of the causative factors. The Commissioners of H.M. Customs & Excise for the financial year 1957-58 report that the amount of tobacco retained in this country for consumption rose by 3,000,000 lbs. to reach a record figure of 241.9 million lbs.

COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM

POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEAR 1958

District	Pop-ulation Census 1951	Reg. Gen. estimated Population Mid-1958	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 Live and Still-births
<b>URBAN:</b>								
Aylesbury	21,050	22,960	17.3 (397)	10.4 (239)	0.04 (1)	12.6 (5)	12.6 (5)	Nil
Beaconsfield	7,913	9,100	14.5 (132)	9.0 (82)	0.11 (1)	15.2 (2)	7.6 (1)	Nil
Bletchley	10,919	14,610	19.7 (288)	7.9 (116)	0.34 (5)	10.4 (3)	3.5 (1)	Nil
Buckingham	3,942	4,130	16.7 (69)	10.7 (44)	- (-)	14.5 (1)	14.5 (1)	Nil
Chesham	11,433	13,060	18.7 (244)	11.9 (156)	0.08 (1)	12.3 (3)	8.2 (2)	Nil
Eton	3,247	4,980	11.4 (57)	10.0 (50)	- (-)	70.2 (4)	52.6 (3)	Nil
High Wycombe	40,702	45,270	16.7 (758)	10.0 (453)	0.20 (9)	18.5 (14)	13.2 (10)	Nil
Linslade	3,270	3,740	20.1 (75)	11.8 (44)	0.27 (1)	- (-)	- (-)	Nil
Marlow	6,481	7,430	19.9 (148)	10.1 (75)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	Nil
Newport Pagnell	4,377	4,400	14.3 (63)	28.2 (124)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	Nil
Slough	66,471	73,620	17.3 (1275)	7.7 (570)	0.08 (6)	14.9 (19)	10.2 (13)	Nil
Wolverton	13,426	13,300	12.6 (168)	13.8 (184)	0.15 (2)	17.9 (3)	17.9 (3)	Nil
Total Urban	193,231	216,600	17.0 (3674)	9.9 (2137)	0.12 (26)	14.7 (54)	10.6 (39)	Nil
<b>RURAL:</b>								
Amersham	41,437	49,820	17.5 (870)	9.7 (485)	0.02 (1)	19.5 (17)	16.1 (14)	Nil
Aylesbury	29,545	30,210	18.3 (552)	10.9 (329)	0.03 (1)	9.1 (5)	9.1 (5)	Nil
Buckingham	9,422	9,620	16.6 (160)	10.2 (98)	- (-)	25.0 (4)	18.7 (3)	Nil
Eton	43,143	57,300	17.6 (1009)	8.5 (485)	0.05 (3)	15.9 (16)	14.9 (15)	Nil
Newport Pagnell	13,823	14,630	15.0 (220)	12.3 (180)	- (-)	18.2 (4)	13.6 (3)	Nil
Wing	9,047	8,840	17.1 (151)	9.0 (80)	- (-)	46.4 (7)	39.7 (6)	Nil
Winslow	7,268	7,820	15.7 (123)	13.6 (106)	- (-)	24.4 (3)	24.4 (3)	Nil
Wycombe	39,375	45,760	18.6 (849)	9.2 (423)	0.09 (4)	17.7 (15)	10.6 (9)	Nil
Total Rural	193,060	224,000	17.6 (3934)	9.8 (2186)	0.04 (9)	18.0 (71)	14.7 (58)	Nil
TOTAL COUNTY	386,291	440,600	17.3 (7608)	9.8 (4323)	0.08 (35)	16.4 (125)	12.7 (97)	Nil
ENGLAND AND WALES			16.4	11.7	0.10	22.5	16.2	0.43



## SECTION II

### HEALTH SERVICES

#### (1) HOSPITAL SERVICES.

The Chesham Urban District is situated within the area of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board. The Board has delegated management responsibilities of hospitals in this area to the High Wycombe & District Management Committee.

Hospitals available for the District are as follows:-

Tuberculosis	- Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard Common
General	- Chesham Cottage Hospital
	- Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury
	- Amersham General Hospital
	- Tindal General Hospital, Aylesbury
	- Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesbury
	- War Memorial Hospital, High Wycombe
	- Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Hospital
Infectious Diseases	- Aylesbury Isolation Hospital
Mental	- St. John's Hospital, Stone
Maternity	- The Stone Maternity Home, Chalfont St. Giles.

#### (2) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratories situated at Oxford and Luton.

Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst for Southwark Borough Council.

#### (3) AMBULANCE SERVICES

These services are administered by the County Council, the Chesham Urban District Council's area being covered by the Chesham sub-station.

#### (4) MEDICAL COMFORTS DEPOT

The Medical Comforts Depot provided by the Chesham Nursing Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade has again rendered valuable service.

The supply of medical comforts helps relatives to nurse patients in their home, particularly the elderly and chronic sick. Maternity cases nursed at home also receive help, which is greatly appreciated.

In 1958, the Depot supplied throughout the County a total of 2,177 articles. This is an increase of 117 articles over the previous year.

Thanks must be given to all members of the Chesham St. John's Ambulance Brigade who associate themselves with this work.

#### (5) MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

This service is provided by Miss M.E. Marston, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., and Miss P. Sigsworth, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., from 305, Berkhamstead Road, Chesham, - Telephone Chesham 555.

#### (6) CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

A Child Welfare Centre is established at the School Clinic, Germain Street, Chesham, where weekly sessions, with a Medical Officer in attendance are held.

A new Centre has also been set up at the Community Hall, Windsor Road, Pond Park, where fortnightly sessions are held and a Doctor attends monthly. At the Centres mothers can obtain help and advice in the care of babies and young children and arrange immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough.

Welfare foods are distributed from the Centres.

(7) HEALTH VISITING

A Health Visiting Service is provided by the Bucks County Council for health education of the public and personal guidance to families seeking advice. The Health Visitors for Chesham may be found through the School Clinic, Germain Street, Chesham - Telephone Chesham 8498.

(8) BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

There is no doubt that this service is one of the most vital to the wellbeing of any modern community, but it is also one of the most unobtrusive and least heralded of the voluntary services. Blood donor sessions are held at six monthly intervals usually in January and July at the School Clinic, Germain Street. There is an urgent need for more donors and volunteers for this important service are recommended to communicate direct with the organ for the area who is:-

Mrs. Stevens,  
Lych-cot,  
Woodside Close,  
Amersham. Tel: Amersham 981.

Persons between 18 and 65 years may volunteer. Those under 21 years require their parents' consent.

S E C T I O N    I I I

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948-1951

(1) SECTIONS 47 and 50.

No action under these Sections has been taken during the year.

SECTION IVPREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE(1) NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are given below, together with comparative figures for 1948 and 1957:-

DISEASE	Cases Notified		
	1958	1957	1948
Measles	368	9	3
Scarlet Fever	1	2	13
Whooping Cough	1	6	7
Paratyphoid Fever	-	1	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-
Tuberculosis	2	5	16
Food Poisoning	1	-	-

(2) DIPHTHERIA

It is gratifying to note that 1958 was the fourteenth consecutive year during which the district has been free from diphtheria. In 1958 91% of children under one were immunised against this disease.

(3) WHOOPING COUGH

One case was notified during the year. Of the children in the district approximately 91% had been immunised by the time they reached the age of 12 months.

In the country as a whole approximately 10% of notified cases of whooping cough relate to babies under one year and 80% of the deaths occurred in this group. This underlines the necessity to commence immunisation against whooping cough by the third month of life.

(4) TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the new cases of tuberculosis and the deaths from the disease, arranged in age groups.

Age Periods Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
67 - 75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-



(5) B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

B.C.G. vaccination is provided for children aged 13 years by the School Health Department.

SUMMARY

(Chesham Technical, Germain County Secondary and Whitehill County Secondary Schools only)

Total No. eligible by age	...	...	...	...	...	198
Total No. Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	158
Percentage Positive Reactors	..	...	...	...	...	12%
Percentage Non-Reactors	...	...	...	...	...	84%
Percentage absent from Reading.	...	...	...	...	...	4%

A positive reaction indicates that the child has already been infected with tuberculosis and has thereby acquired a degree of protection from further infection with the disease. Non-reactors are vaccinated at the time the preliminary tests are read.

(6) MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY

We have in the Mass Miniature Radiography Survey a means of eradicating tuberculosis. This desirable end can only be achieved if every adult member of the community participates.

The results of the 1956 Mass Radiography Survey held in this area are now to hand. Out of every 1,000 persons examined, 6 were found to have significant chest lesions requiring treatment or observation and 0.6 had active tuberculosis. It is of interest that two thirds of the persons found to have active tuberculosis had no symptoms.

Of eligible persons 20% were X-rayed. However, when one discounts persons X-rayed in organised groups, only 14% of the general public participated as can be seen from the accompanying table. The response rate became worse with increasing age.

14-19 years	-	1 person	in 4	X-rayed
20-24 do.	-	do.	6	do.
25-34 do.	-	do.	4	do.
35-44 do.	-	do.	6½	do.
45-54 do.	-	do.	7	do.
55-64 do.	-	do.	11	do.
65 plus	-	do.	26	do.

The application of high pressure techniques as used in Glasgow and Liverpool to a small urban area are worthy of consideration; so also is the problem of persuading the elderly of the importance of their being X-rayed and the difficulties they find in attending.

(7) ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

No cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year. The incidence of this disease was low over the whole country. Although the increasing number of individuals vaccinated against poliomyelitis will have contributed to this satisfactory state, this disease will not be controlled until nearly 100% of the more susceptible age groups are protected by vaccination against it.

The latest figures indicate that approximately 65% of children under 16 years have been vaccinated and only a small percentage of those aged between 16 and 25.

(8) FOOD POISONING

One case of food poisoning was notified. Salmonella Typhi Murium was the causative organism. Investigations did not reveal the source of infection.

SECTION VSANITARY INSPECTION(1) VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	83
Revisits made to houses under Public Health Acts...	...	...	...	219
Number of houses inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	...	12
Revisits made to houses under Housing Acts...	...	...	...	12
Visits to houses under Rent Acts	...	...	...	34
Number of houses inspected for vermin..	...	...	...	14
Number of rooms disinfested	...	...	...	35
Revisits	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous visits to houses ..	...	...	...	161
Visits to houses in connection with Improvement Grants ..	...	...	...	55
Visits where Infectious Disease has occurred	...	...	...	4
Number of rooms disinfested	...	...	...	1
Visits to Slaughterhouse (Meat Inspection) ..	...	...	...	399
Visits to Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	24
Visits to Fish Shops.	...	...	...	4
Visits to Grocers' Shops ..	...	...	...	119
Visits to Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	5
Visits to Food Preparing Places .	...	...	...	6
Visits to Restaurants	...	...	...	20
Visits to Bakehouses and Confectioners	...	...	...	31
Visits in connection with Milk Sampling	...	...	...	3
Visits to Knackers' Yard ..	...	...	...	3
Visits and inspections of Factories	...	...	...	38
Visits in connection with Water Supply	...	...	...	47
Visits in connection with Rodent Control	...	...	...	19
Interviews	...	...	...	366
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	309
Visits & Observations re Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	43

(2) VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year five infestations of bed-bugs were reported and treated.

In addition, in response to requests for help from occupiers, nests of wasps were destroyed at 5 premises during the summer months; householders were also given help in four cases of infestation by ants.

(3) PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 - STATUTORY NOTICES.

The following is a statement of the Statutory Notices served and complied with during the year:-

Section of Act	Details	Number of Notices			
		Outstand- ing on 1.1.1958.	Served	Complied with	Outstand- ing on 31.12.58.
39	Defective drainage systems	-	2	1	1
45	Defective sanitary accommodation	-	4	3	1
93	Abatement of nuisances	1	7	7	1

The following work was carried out by owners in compliance with the above notices:-

Defective ceiling plaster renewed	1
Rain water guttering repaired or renewed	1
Leaky roofs repaired	2
Boarded floors repaired or renewed	1
Water closets repaired	3
Yards paved and drained	2

(4) PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES BY INFORMAL ACTION.

The following table shows the number of defects which have been dealt with by means of informal action during 1958:-

Defect	Number of Defects			
	Outstanding on 1.1.58	Reported in 1958.	Remedied in 1958.	Outstanding on 31.12.58
Dangerous Roofs	2	-	2	-
Dangerous condition of chimney stack.	1	3	2	2
Leaking Roofs	6	15	15	6
Defective roof surface water drainage	13	23	24	12
Defective and dangerous ceilings	1	2	-	3
Defective doors and windows	19	9	17	11
Defective boarded floors, stairs &c.	8	6	10	4
Defective fireplaces	4	-	3	1
Dampness	33	33	46	20
Defective sanitary accommodation	4	10	9	5
Inadequate sanitary accommodation	1	-	-	1
Defective drainage systems	1	12	10	3
Unsatisfactory yard paving and drainage	6	1	1	6
Unsatisfactory dustbins	-	8	8	-
Miscellaneous	3	13	13	3
Totals	102	135	160	77



SECTION VISANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA(1) WATER SUPPLY

Main water in the Chesham Urban District is supplied by the Council's Undertaking and the Undertaking of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company and amalgamated companies. This Council's Undertaking supplies about 84% of the total dwellings within the district in that part which may be conveniently described as the area of the Urban District prior to the extension of boundaries in 1934.

During the year under review the Undertakings have supplied main water that has been satisfactory both in regard to quantity and quality.

There are only 26 dwellings in the District dependent upon a well supply.

Treatment and Plumbo-Solvency of Water.

The main supplies receive no treatment other than chlorination and the waters are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Sampling of Public Water Supplies

During the year samples have been taken from the piped water supplied by the Chesham Urban District Council and the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Eighteen samples, nine for bacteriological examination and nine for chemical analysis, were submitted to the Public Analyst and he reports that the water of all samples was of high chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Distribution of Main Supplies

The following table shows the number of dwellings and estimated population supplied from public water mains:-

	No. of Houses	No. of Caravans	Estimated Population
Internal piped supply	4,487	-	12,860
External supply (standpipes etc)	76	27	200

Adequate public water supplies were available for all parts of the District in which new dwellings were erected during the year.

(2) PUBLIC SWIMMING BATH

The untreated water from the bore well which supplies the Council's swimming bath is known to be subject to intermittent contamination. When in use the water in the filled bath is dosed regularly with chlorine and bacteriological examination of samples has shown that whenever the free chlorine is maintained between 0.2 and 0.5 parts per million, the water is

safe for bathing purposes. The free chlorine content of the water has been checked on frequent occasions by the Public Health Inspector.

Plans for the reconstruction of the bath have been submitted for approval to the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

It is hoped that they will receive early approval in order that the filtration plant will be in operation for the 1960 swimming season (time required for delivery of filtration plant is at least six months from receipt of firm order).

### (3) SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewerage of the town is on the separate system, the soil water sewer discharging to the Council's Sewage Disposal Plant in Latimer Road. The effluent resulting from the treatment of the sewage in sedimentation tanks and percolating filters is discharged to the River Chess.

Operational details were under close scrutiny with a view to continuing the improvement in quality of the effluent at the works following the abnormal period in 1955.

The increased population both of the Urban District and the area of Chesham Bois, which is served by the works, is, however, beginning to exert a strong influence on the operation of the works, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the necessary high standard of effluent required.

The quality of the effluent as ascertained by chemical analysis is within the limits of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal, but it is doubtful whether at times the necessary dilution is obtained because of the decreasing flow in the River Chess.

A Contract has been let for the relaying of the foul sewer in Germain Street/Wey Lane and part of Church Street, and it is hoped that a start will be made early in 1959. These works deal with one of the worst sources of sub-soil infiltration and should produce a substantial reduction in flow to the Sewage Disposal Works.

#### Parts of the District not served by public sewer.

A survey carried out in 1953/54 showed that approximately 450 dwellings were situated in areas not served by a public sewer. This number has since increased with the building of further houses in Berkeley Avenue, Botley Road and other outlying parts of the town. Most of the dwellings drain to either a sealed cesspool or to a septic tank and soakaway into chalk. Since 1954 sealed cesspools only have been permitted for new dwellings.

#### Cesspool emptying

The Council's machine emptied 300 cesspools during 1958, 274 being in the Urban District, whilst the remainder were in adjoining areas.

### (4) REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

All house refuse collected in the Urban District is disposed of by incineration at the Council's Incinerator Plant in Latimer Road, Chesham.

#### Provision of Dustbins

Since 1950 the Council has used the powers given by Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, which provides that in lieu of requiring owners or occupiers of buildings to provide dustbins, the Local Authority may themselves undertake to provide and maintain such dustbins as may be necessary. An annual charge of 7/6d. collected with the general rate, is charged for each dustbin.

In practice Council dustbins are not delivered to premises before the



attention of owners has been drawn to the unsatisfactory arrangements and they have had an opportunity of providing dustbins themselves.

Provision of Dustbins by Council

Number of dustbins provided in 1958	...	...	18
Number of dustbins provided 1950/1957	...	...	181
			<hr/>
			199
Number of dustbins withdrawn 1958	...	...	2
			<hr/>
Total provided.....			197
			<hr/>

(5) SLUM CLEARANCE

In the Report for 1957 it was stated that the Council had made a Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of land required for the initial stage of the proposed redevelopment of the George Street and Alexander Street area.

The erection of flats on this site would have provided suitable accommodation for a number of the tenants from the adjoining clearance areas. The majority of the tenants are elderly and the Council considered that to offer alternative accommodation on housing sites on the outskirts of the district would create considerable hardship. The owner of the land appealed however, and a Public Enquiry was held in March, 1958. The decision of the Minister to allow the Appeal was not notified to this Council until September 1958. These protracted negotiations delayed action with regard to the clearance of the 27 properties in the two proposed areas in George Street and Alexander Street but the Council are now pressing forward with the development of sites in other parts of the district, which although lacking many of the advantages of the original site, will offer reasonable alternate accommodation to the persons displaced. These dwellings should be available during 1960.

In the Council's provisional programme of slum clearance it is proposed that by 1961 57 houses should be included in clearance areas.

Individual Unfit Houses.

The lack of alternative accommodation has also hampered progress with regard to unfit houses which are considered suitable for individual procedure under the Housing Acts. There were 85 such houses in the original proposals and 8 more have since been added. However, wherever practicable, action has been taken and during the year 10 houses or parts of buildings used as dwellings have either been closed in compliance with closing orders or in accordance with undertakings given by the owners.

At the end of the year 129 unfit houses remained to be dealt with out of a total of 150 included in the Council's proposals.

(6) HOUSING REPAIRS

The number of houses at which repairs were carried out following informal action under the Public Health and Housing Acts was 25. Formal action under the Public Health Act resulted in the repair of six other houses. Action was in most cases the result of complaint made to the Public Health Department by the occupiers concerned.

No routine house-to-house inspection of dwelling houses has been carried out.

(7) THE RENT ACT, 1957

The interest and activity aroused by this Act during the first few

months of its operation in 1957 was not maintained during 1958. Few members of the public sought information from the Council's Public Health Officers and applications for Certificates of Disrepair were limited to three. It is clear to Inspectors when investigating complaints of house defects that to many tenants the procedure for securing the abatement of disrepair remains a mystery. Furthermore, many who do understand refrain from adopting the procedure.

In general, however, the Act seems to have stimulated the repair of a considerable number of local rent-controlled cottages.

#### (8) IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

In September, 1957, as a result of the increase in the Bank Rate and the need to restrict all forms of capital expenditure, the Council decided to discontinue making improvement grants for three months; this period was later extended, and it was not until June, 1958 that the decision was made to resume making grants. From July until the end of the year 11 applications for grants were approved.

The Public Health Inspectors have made 55 visits during the year in connection with improvement schemes, advising applicants on proposals or inspecting works in progress.

The table below shows the number of applications received and approved, together with the total amount of grants made for the years 1954 to 1958 inclusive.

	1954-1956	1957	1958	Total
Number of Applications	61	4	11	76
Number of Grants approved	56	2	11	69
Total cost of approved improvements	£23,837	£1,243	£4,905	£29,985
Total amount of grants approved	£10,610	£427	£2,209	£13,246
Number of schemes completed	41	15	4	60

#### (9) POSTWAR HOUSING

During 1958, the Council rehoused 113 families, including 33 exchanges of tenancy.

One case of statutory overcrowding involving 8 persons was relieved.

Since 1946, Chesham Council have provided alternative housing accommodation for 1,457 families, and the following details of the number of new dwellings erected in the post-war period are of interest.

POSTWAR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

YEAR	HOUSE TYPES & NUMBER				ANNUAL COUNCIL TOTAL	HOUSES ERECTED BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE (including Housing Associations)
	Temporary Bungalows	Houses	Flats	O.A.P. Bung- alows.		
1946	35	-	-	-	35	14
1947	-	14	-	-	14	17
1948	-	67	-	-	67	15
1949	-	87	28	-	115	24
1950	-	18	8	-	26	15
1951	-	33	8	8	49	11
1952	-	-	36	-	36	5
1953	-	22	12	5	39	31
1954	-	144	17	-	161	69
1955	-	34	13	27	74	123
1956	-	36	12	-	48	180
1957	-	28	24	-	52	167
1958	-	44	8	-	52	163
TOTAL	35	527	166	40	768	834

At the close of the year there were 32 houses under construction by the Council and 155 under private construction.

(10) HOUSING FOR SPECIAL CLASSES - Accommodation for Elderly Persons.

Chesham Council built a number of self-contained elderly persons' flats before the war, and further groups of bungalows and flats were included in postwar development. As a result of this experience the Council decided that the provision of a convenient self-contained dwelling did not in many cases fully meet the needs of elderly persons and that something was needed to bridge the gap between that type of accommodation normally provided by housing authorities and the residential accommodation for which the welfare authority is responsible.

In 1953, a resident warden was appointed at Townfield, whose duties consisted of assisting the elderly tenants in the capacity of a "good neighbour", helping with shopping, maintaining contact with relatives etc. The success of this experiment decided the Council to develop the scheme at Fullers Hill, with a community room etc., which has attracted so much attention in the County. On the grounds that these specially designed dwellings with the type of supervision provided would reduce the calls upon the welfare authority for residential accommodation, the Council obtained a small grant from the County Council under Section 126 of the Local Government Act, 1948.

It is interesting to note that several years later in 1957 the Minister



announced that he would give his general consent to the making of contributions by any County Council under Section 126 towards the whole or any part of any expenses incurred in the provision of housing specially suited to the needs of old people by the Council of any County district in the area of the county concerned.

Chesham Council may claim to be amongst the pioneers in this field of housing, and were the first authority to establish such a service in the County. In making arrangements for a warden's service, consideration was given to the respective responsibilities of the welfare and housing authorities. Care was taken by the Council to avoid overlapping with the County Council's welfare services; dwellings, being self-contained units, tenants could lead an entirely independent life should they so wish; no communal cooking facilities were provided, nor provision made for dealing with those cases requiring constant care and attention.

Postwar legislation has divided the responsibility for the welfare and housing of elderly persons between the Regional Hospital Board, the Welfare Authorities (County Councils and County Borough Councils) and the County District Councils, depending upon the particular needs of the persons concerned. Such an arrangement has inevitably the same limitations as most other attempts to classify the infinite variety of circumstances which make up any social problem. In many instances elderly people do not fall clearly into any one group. In the 10 years since the passage of the National Assistance Act, 1948, however, valuable experience has been gained in this field, and there is increasing support for the view that in the majority of cases the needs of the elderly are best met in their own homes where they continue to be members of the community and are close to their families, friends and neighbours. Where for various reasons this is not possible, the provision by the housing authority of suitable alternative accommodation with certain supplementary services, will postpone almost indefinitely the time when elderly persons have to give up their homes and are removed to residential accommodation, which, however excellent, is frequently many miles from the district in which they have spent most of their lives. Such arrangements must reduce the calls upon the welfare authority for residential accommodation.

The recent trend in Government policy encourages housing authorities to provide communal welfare facilities in co-operation with the welfare authority. It is hoped to explore still further this aspect of housing for the elderly in connection with the proposed development in Deansway.

(11) PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Section 269.

Moveable Dwellings.

During 1958, 27 persons were licensed under Section 269 of the Act to station moveable dwellings in the district. Twenty-three of the caravans were stationed on the site managed by the Chesham Urban District Council on their land at Trapps Lane, Chesham, the remaining four being located on various individual sites throughout the district.

The Council's site which has been fully occupied since opening in 1951 contains standings for 23 caravans. A piped supply of main water is available and a communal sanitary block has been provided, containing water closets and washing facilities. A rental of 10/- per week is charged for each caravan.

(12) RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The methods of rodent control practiced in the district have been similar to those in previous years. Inspection of all types of property is carried out as a result of notifications received from occupiers and

to a greater extent by the continual routine survey of the area. Particular attention has been given to the survey of Council property and infestations have been treated at the site of the Incinerator and the Sewage Works, also on land on the Lower Moor.

Rat and Mice infestations have been treated successfully using Warfarin a blood anti-coagulant rodenticide.

#### Agricultural Premises.

During the year notification was received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food that the contract service operated by the Agricultural Executive Committees for the destruction of rats and mice on farms was to end. No further contracts would be taken out and the existing contracts would not be renewed. The Council's Rodent Officer has continued to carry out the survey of agricultural property in the district, and now that the contract service of the Ministry has ceased his services are being increasingly used by farmers for the treatment of infestations. The work is re-charged at the same rate as for the treatment of other businesses, i.e. on an hourly basis, the present rate being 8/- per hour inclusive of all labour and materials.

#### Destruction of Rats in Sewers.

The first of the half-yearly treatments of the Council's sewers was completed in May and it is very pleasing to report that this showed a spectacular reduction in the number of infested manholes. The second maintenance treatment in October confirmed that the Council's sewers were virtually free from rats, a condition rarely attained before. This achievement must be attributed to the Warfarin rodenticide which was first used for the destruction of rats in the sewers in October, 1957. Warfarin, although widely used for surface infestations had hitherto not been used in sewers in this area, but this result shows that its use is fully justified.

A summary of action taken during the year is given below:-

#### Rodent Control during 1958

	TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Local Auth- ority	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cult- ural.	All other (including business)
I. <u>Inspections</u> Number of properties inspected as a result of:				
(a) Notification	-	76	2	21
(b) Survey under the Act	13	1132	24	249
(c) Reinspections	4	2	-	5
Total Inspections	17	1210	26	275
II. <u>Infestations</u> Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats	5	79	3	22
(b) Mice	-	15	-	1
Total Infestations	5	94	3	23
III. <u>Total Treatments</u> (rats & mice) Number of infested properties treated (including re- treatments)	7	54	1	7
IV. Number of 'Block' Control Schemes carried out.	-	16	-	-



(13) RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLINGS MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Three premises are registered under the Act, the activities carried on being upholstery work in two cases and the manufacture of soft toys in the other.

(14) PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

No person has been licensed to keep a pet shop during the year.

(15) KNACKERS' YARDS

The licensed Knackers' Yard situated at Broadview Farm, Great Hivings, Chesham, has continued to operate during the year. In accordance with the requirements of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty)(No.2) Regulations, 1954, the occupier has to submit to the Council an annual return showing the number of horses dealt with. The return for 1958 shows the Knackers' Yard received the carcasses of 67 horses and 1 donkey during the year.

Byelaws relating to the sanitary condition, management and keeping of records in Knackers' Yards have been adopted by the Council and came into operation on the 31st March, 1957.

Satisfactory conditions have been maintained at the Knackers' Yard during the year.

(16) BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1957.  
Registration of Hairdressers and Barbers.

As empowered by Section 52 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act, 1957, the Council has for the first time made compulsory the registration of all persons carrying on the business of hairdresser or barber. Occupiers of 17 premises were registered.

Byelaws as to hairdressers and barbers were made and came into operation on the 1st October, 1958. These byelaws make provision for securing the cleanliness of premises, of equipment used and of persons working on the premises.

(17) FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The Council are responsible for enforcing certain provisions of the Factories Acts relating to health and the tables on the following pages give information as to visits made by the Public Health Inspectors and the cases in which defects were found.

The Public Health Inspectors are also responsible for carrying out the survey of factories requiring certification as to means of escape in case of fire under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937. Particulars of the means of escape are recorded in detail and a plan of the premises is drawn up. Where necessary, schedules of alterations and improvements to the means of escape are served upon occupiers. Liaison with H.M. Inspector of Factories is maintained on this subject. During the year six factories were surveyed under these provisions.

The plans of all new factories are examined in the Department, particular attention being paid to ensure that the buildings comply with the requirements of the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations, and that adequate means of escape in case of fire are provided for the persons employed. The numerous cases in which plans need modification in order to comply with these provisions would seem to indicate that architects are not well informed on these matters.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

PREMISES	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with no mechanical power)	6	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with mechanical power)	96	37	3	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) (e.g. Building Sites)	3	-	-	-
TOTAL	105	38	3	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	-	-	4	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	-	-	4	-



(18) OUTWORK

During the year lists of outworkers have been received showing the names of sixty-nine persons engaged in the following classes of work.

Textile weaving	36
Making of wearing apparel	1
Brush-making	12
Making of Christmas novelties, etc.	20

There were two cases of default in sending lists of outworkers to the Council as required by Section 110 of the Factories Act, 1937. The firms giving the outwork were notified and requested to supply the necessary lists in February and August of each year.

(19) CHESHAM INDUSTRIES

The following is a list of Factories on the Register on 31st December, 1958.

Factories with Power

Woodware and Joinery	15
Motor-vehicle repairs	11
Brushware	6
Boot Manufacture and Repairs	5
Light Engineering	12
Clothing and Textiles	4
Printers	3
Toy Manufacture	2
Food Manufacture and Packing	8
Upholstery	3
Manufacturing Jewellers	2
Miscellaneous	24
	<u>95</u>
Building Operations	3

Factories (No Mechanical Power)

Undertakers	1
Stone Mason	1
Textiles	1
Cycle Repairs	1
Packing	2
	<u>6</u>

(20) SHOPS ACT, 1950

At the end of the year legal action was proceeding against one shop-keeper in respect of the failure to provide suitable sanitary accommodation for shop employees.

SECTION VII  
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(1) MILK

Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1954

Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954

Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)  
Regulations, 1949 to 1953.

Since the coming into operation of the above-mentioned Regulations on the 1st October, 1949, the duties of Local Authorities have been concerned mainly with the enforcement of provisions relating to the distribution of milk and its handling and treatment at premises other than dairy farms. The provisions with regard to infection of milk with diseases communicable to man are also the responsibility of Local Authorities.

There are ten producers of milk within the Council's area and the majority are known to have licensed "Tuberculin Tested" herds. All but one dispose of their milk in bulk, either to the local firm of Chesham Dairies Limited, or to the Express Dairy Company (London) Limited.

The one producer/retailer operates a retail round in the Chesham area, selling "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

Number of Registered Milk Distributors	4
Number of Registered Premises used as	
Dairies (not being dairy farms)	1

The number and type of licences granted by this Authority under the Regulations are given below:-

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	2
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised"	2
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	2
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilised"	1

During the year three samples of bottled milk in respect of which the special designation "Pasteurised" was in use were collected from licensed distributors in the area and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. All samples passed the prescribed tests for "Pasteurised" Milk.

Food and Drugs Acts,

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 - Article 20.

No action to deal with infected supplies of milk was necessary during the period.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

No notifications of the slaughter of tuberculous animals under the above Order were received during the year.

? what about sampling

(2) ICE-CREAMIce-cream (Heat Treatment etc) Regulations, 1947-1952.

Ice-cream is now manufactured at only one address in the district and this establishment is equipped with modern plant for the heat treatment of ice-cream products. Most of the ice-cream sold is of the pre-packed variety and is produced by one or other of the large and reputable firms.

(3) NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES BY TYPES

General Grocery and Green Grocery Shops ...	...	54
Butchers' Shops ...	...	13
Wet Fish Shops ...	...	3
Fish Frying Premises ...	...	2
Bakers ...	...	3
Confectionery ...	...	14
Restaurants..	...	10
Food manufacturing premises ...	...	3
Dairies ...	...	1
Factory and Shop Canteens ...	...	10
School Kitchens ...	...	3
School Dining Centres ...	...	10
Licensed Premises..	...	29
Food Warehouses ...	...	1
Slaughterhouses ...	...	1
Clubs and Public Halls ..	...	12
		<u>169</u>

Note: Premises at which more than one type of business is carried on are counted once only.

(4) REGISTRATION OF PREMISES USED FOR THE MANUFACTURE, STORAGE OR SALE OF FOOD UNDER SECTION 18 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Purpose for which Registered	Premises on Register 1957	Added to Register 1958	Removed from Register 1957	Total on Register 31.12.58	Visits in 1958
Sale and Storage of ice-cream	52	3	-	55)	5
Manufacture of ice-cream	6	-	-	6)	
Manufacture of Preserved Food	17	-	-	17	30
Fish Frying	5	-	-	5	4
TOTALS	80	3	-	83	39

Note: During the year ice-cream was manufactured at only one of the registered premises.

(5) SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The one licensed Slaughterhouse in the District, under lease to the Chesham Council from the Chesham, Wycombe & Tring Co-operative Society, has continued to operate during the year, the slaughtering facilities being used by a group of Amersham and Chesham Traders.



Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954.

The following details are extracted from the Register of Slaughtermen:-

Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1957	9
Applications for Licences considered during 1958	-
Applications for Renewals considered during 1958	9

Number of Slaughtermen removed from Register (no applications for renewal of licences)	-
---	---

Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1958	9
---	---

(6) INSPECTION OF MEAT

The Council's Public Health Inspectors are responsible for the post-mortem examination of animals killed at the Slaughterhouse and a system of 100% inspection is in operation. This work has involved 399 visits to the Slaughterhouse during the past twelve months.

A table showing the number of carcasses inspected and condemned in 1958 is given below:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	656	46	63	972	2178	-
Number inspected	656	46	63	972	2178	-
<u>All diseases except T.B. &amp; Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	131	-	1	2	97	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. and cysticerci	19.5%	-	1.58%	0.21%	4.45%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	32	-	-	-	75	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	4.85%	-	-	-	3.45%	-
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	6	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by re- frigeration	6	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

The total number of animals slaughtered and examined during the year showed a slight decrease on the previous year; comparative figures for the past five years are shown in the following table:-

Number of Animals Slaughtered & Inspected during 1954-58

YEAR	CATTLE	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS	Total kill in equivalent cattle units (see note below)
1954	1185	213	3631	2122	3043
1955	656	234	929	2651	2245
1956	609	260	706	2315	1994
1957	678	168	1024	2254	2066
1958	702	63	972	2178	2006

Note: One cattle unit represents 1 cattle beast or 3 calves, or 5 sheep or 2 pigs.

Percentage of Animals Inspected affected with Tuberculosis

The percentage of animals inspected affected with Tuberculosis maintained the improvement shown in recent years. The following table shows comparative figures for the past five years.

Percentage of Number Inspected affected with Tuberculosis

YEAR	CATTLE Excluding Cows	COWS	CALVES	PIGS
1954	8.5%	20.0%	-	2.9%
1955	6.74%	14.67%	-	2.52%
1956	5.32%	4.34%	-	3.62%
1957	5.78%	-	0.59%	2.97%
1958	4.85%	-	-	3.45%

(7) FOOD HYGIENE.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 to 1957.

1958 was the third year during which the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 have operated. The Public Health Inspectors have continued to devote much of their time to the enforcement of these Regulations and in all 209 visits have been made to food shops and other places where food businesses are carried on. Most of the visits have been in the nature of follow-up visits, that is to say, the re-visiting of premises where previous visits have brought to light infringements of the Regulations. In fact, the amount of time and effort involved in these follow-up visits has meant that little new ground has been covered.

Whilst the majority of shops and food preparing places have now been surveyed in detail by the Public Health Inspectors it has not yet been found possible to complete similar surveys of certain special classes of premises subject to the Regulations, viz. licensed premises, school kitchens and dining centres, factory and shop canteens and clubs and public halls where meals are



served. This work has unfortunately been delayed due to the time taken to bring the other food premises up to the minimum standards.

During the year special attention has been given to the washing-up arrangements in local catering establishments. At two cafes it has been demonstrated by the bacteriological examination of swabs taken from crockery and utensils in use that the technique was not satisfactory and the management have been persuaded to adopt improved methods. In the absence of steam or supplies of hot water at sterilising temperatures the use of germicidal detergents has been encouraged.

Since the operation of the Regulations it has been an offence for a food handler to smoke whilst handling "open" food or when in a room in which there is "open" food. Food handlers fail to realise the significance of smoking in relation to food hygiene. The real danger is not so much the possible contamination of food with ash or cigarette end, undesirable though this may be, but the greater risk which arises from the frequent contact of the fingers with nose, lips or mouth - potential sources of organisms known to be capable of infecting food. The possibility of food poisoning being caused indirectly from smoking must therefore be eliminated by a strict adherence to the Regulations. As the "no smoking" rule was obviously not being kept, a special circular was sent to all food traders in the district drawing their attention to the Regulations and stating that any subsequent infringements would be reported to the Council with a view to statutory action. At the same time the traders were provided with metal plaques containing the notice "NO SMOKING HERE" which were suitable for display in food rooms at their premises.

#### Certificates of Exemption

The Regulations authorise the local authority to grant exemption from certain of the requirements in relation to premises at which it is not reasonable to require compliance by reason of restricted accommodation or other special circumstances. During the year 6 new certificates of exemption have been issued and 15 certificates previously granted have been renewed, making a total of 21 certificates in force at the end of the year. In all but two cases exemptions have been restricted to the Regulation requiring the provision of separate facilities for the washing of food and equipment and have been granted only where the food is brought to the premises ready for sale, and little or no food equipment is used. Hand washing facilities are of course provided by all. The exemption in one of the exceptional cases was in respect of a shop where a number of essential facilities were absent, and it was not practicable to provide them. The owner of the business submitted proposals to erect a new shop in which the necessary facilities would be provided, and the certificate was granted for a limited period to enable this work to be carried out. In a further case an exemption certificate was granted for a limited period in respect of a shop where washing facilities were inadequate and additional facilities could be provided only with difficulty due to restricted space. The occupier stated that there was a possibility that additional accommodation for business use would be available at the premises in the future in which the facilities needed would be provided. In the circumstances an exemption certificate was granted for a period of a year.

#### Prosecutions

Extreme difficulty has been experienced in obtaining compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations in some cases. At the end of the year legal action was proceeding against one shopkeeper in respect of infringements.

#### (8) UN SOUND FOOD

The following amounts of unsound food were condemned during the

year:-

						<u>Weight</u>		
						<u>Tons</u>	<u>cwts</u>	<u>lbs</u>
Beef	...	...	...	...	...	1	14	57
Veal	...	...	...	...	...			2
Mutton	...	...	...	...	...			43
Pork	...	...	...	...	...		11	24
Fish	...	...	...	...	...			42
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	...			93
Cooked Ham	...	...	...	...	...			49
						2	7	86

#### Tinned Foods

3 Tins Fruit  
126 Tins Vegetables  
3 Tins Milk  
3 Tins Meat

#### Disposal of Condemned Foodstuffs

Condemned foodstuffs (other than meat from the Slaughterhouse) are collected from traders by the Surveyor's Department of the Council and destroyed by incineration at the Council's plant in Latimer Road, Chesham.

The disposal of meat condemned as unfit at the Slaughterhouse is subject to arrangements between the Council and individual owners. Without prejudice to powers of seizure under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the Council has agreed to permit owners to retain possession of unsound meat, provided they give a signed undertaking that such meat will not be used for human consumption.

Before disposal the owners are requested to notify the Chief Public Health Inspector of the names and addresses of the persons to whom the condemned materials are being consigned. As a safeguard, the Chesham Slaughterhouse Company, who operate the Slaughterhouse, undertake to stain the rejected meat and offal with a green dye before allowing removal from the premises.

F. SEYMOUR

Medical Officer of Health

L.D. SATURLEY

Chief Public Health Inspector

